

IN THE CLAIMS

Appendix C presents the amendments to the claims showing additions and [deletions]. Appendix D presents a "clean" copy of the pending claims after entry of the present amendment.

Please amend the following claims to read as indicated:

C 4 3. (Twice Amended) In an open top barrel (10) having a barrel body (20) with an upper end defined by an upper barrel edge (28) extending circumferentially around said barrel and including a first portion (27) extending radially away from said body (20) and having a downwardly facing surface (18), and a second portion (29) extending upwardly from said first portion (27), with an inner edge (27a) of the first portion (27) extending radially inward of the entire second portion (29); the improvement comprising:

- a) an exterior rib (40), said rib (40) defining part of said barrel edge and having both an upper surface and a lower surface projecting radially outwardly beyond an outward extent of said first and second portions with said lower surface of said rib disposed along said downwardly facing surface (18) and defining a continuing part of said downwardly facing surface (18), said rib (40) terminating in a free end surface connecting said upper and lower surfaces.

C S 4. (Three Times amended) In a blow-molded lidded barrel (10) having a barrel body (20) with an upper open end defined by an upper barrel edge (28) having a first portion (27) extending radially away from said body (20) and having a downwardly facing surface (18), and a second portion (29) extending upwardly from said first portion (27) to define an uppermost surface of the upper barrel edge (28), with an inner edge (27a) of the first portion (27) extending radially inward of the entire second portion (29), a barrel lid (12) covering the open end of the barrel in a closed position of the lid, said lid having a central section and an outer peripheral lid edge (16) which in cross-section defines a downwardly facing U-shaped part overlying said upper barrel edge (28), a U-shaped tension-ring closure member (14), which in said closed position of the lid engages with an upper leg of said-tension ring closure

member over an upwardly facing surface of said outer peripheral lid edge (16) and engages with a lower leg of said tension-ring closure member under said downwardly facing surface (18) that extends below said uppermost surface of the upper barrel edge (28), the improvement comprising:

- a) an exterior rib (40), said rib (40) defining part of said barrel edge and having both an upper surface and a lower surface projecting radially outwardly beyond an outward extent of said first and second portions with said lower surface of said rib disposed along said downwardly facing surface (18) and defining a continuing part of said downwardly facing surface (18), said rib (40) terminating in a free end surface connecting said upper and lower surfaces.

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3. (Twice Amended) An open top plastic drum, comprising:

- a) a drum body having:
 - i) a closed bottom;
 - ii) a substantially axially symmetrical sidewall extending upwardly from said bottom; and
 - iii) a chime portion for receiving a removable cover, said chime portion extending from said sidewall so as to define an open top and including:
 - (1) a substantially radial first chime wall projecting outwardly from said sidewall and having a bottom surface,
 - (2) a substantially cylindrical second chime wall directed upwardly from said first chime wall and having a lower portion contiguous with said first chime wall, with an inner edge of the first chime wall extending radially inward of the entire second chime wall, and
 - (3) an exterior circumferential rib extending from the first chime wall below the second chime wall, and also extending radially outwardly beyond an outward extent of said first and second chime walls;

- C⁵
- b) a cover having a peripheral chime receiving member that includes a circumferential flange having an inner diameter larger than said second chime wall but less than said circumferential rib; and
- c) a retaining ring having first and second legs fixedly connected by an intermediate band, wherein said first leg engages an outer surface of said peripheral chime receiving member directly above said second chime wall, and wherein said second leg engages the bottom portions of said rib and said first chime wall directly below said second chime wall.
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10. (Twice Amended) An open top plastic drum, comprising:

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- a) a blow-molded drum body having:
- i) a closed bottom;
 - ii) a substantially axially symmetrical sidewall extending upwardly from said bottom, and
 - iii) a chime portion for receiving a removable cover, said chime portion extending from said sidewall so as to define an open top and including:
 - (1) a substantially radial first chime wall projecting outwardly from said sidewall and having a bottom surface,
 - (2) a substantially cylindrical second chime wall directed upwardly from said first chime wall and having a lower portion contiguous with said first chime wall, with an inner edge of the first chime wall extending radially inward of the entire second chime wall, and
 - (3) an exterior circumferential rib extending radially outwardly beyond an outward extent of said first and second chime wall, the rib further having a bottom surface that is substantially coplanar with said first wall and substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the container circumscribing said lower portion of said second chime wall, whereby the rib increases

the moment of inertia of the chime portion and thus provides greater rigidity to said chime portion and;

- C⁴
- b) a cover having a peripheral chime receiving member that includes a circumferential flange having an inner diameter larger than said second chime wall but less than said circumferential rib, so as to extend only over an upper portion of said second chime wall but not over said rib;
 - c) a retaining ring having first and second legs fixedly connected by an intermediate band, wherein said first leg engages an outer surface of said peripheral chime receiving member directly above said second chime wall and wherein said second leg engages the bottom portions of said rib and said first chime wall directly below said second chime wall such that the length of engagement of the lower leg of the ring with the chime portion is increased and the ring has increased resistance to deformation and sliding from the chime if the drum is dropped.
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18. (Amended) In an open top barrel (10) having a barrel body (20) with an upper end defined by an upper barrel edge (28) extending circumferentially around said barrel and including a first portion (27) attached to said body (20) and having a downwardly facing surface (18), and a second portion (29) extending upwardly from said first portion (27), with an inner edge (27a) of the first portion (27) extending radially inward of the entire second portion (29), the improvement comprising:

- C⁷
- a) an exterior rib (40), said rib (40) defining part of said barrel edge and having both an upper surface and a lower surface projecting radially outwardly beyond an outward extent of said first and second portions with said lower surface of said rib disposed along said downwardly facing surface (18) and defining a continuing part of said downwardly facing surface (18), said rib (40) terminating in a free end surface connecting said upper and lower surfaces.

19. (Amended) In a blow-molded lidded barrel (10) having a barrel body (20) with an upper open end defined by an upper barrel edge (28) having a first portion (27) attached to

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said body (20) and having a downwardly facing surface (18), and a second portion (29) extending upwardly from said first portion (27) to define an uppermost surface of the upper barrel edge (28), with an inner edge (27a) of the first portion (27) extending radially inward of the entire second portion (29), a barrel lid (12) covering the open end of the barrel in a closed position of the lid, said lid having a central section and an outer peripheral lid edge (16) which in cross-section defines a downwardly facing U-shaped part overlying said upper barrel edge (28), a U-shaped tension-ring closure member (14), which in said closed position of the lid engages with an upper leg of said-tension ring closure member over an upwardly facing surface of said outer peripheral lid edge (16) and engages with a lower leg of said tension-ring closure member under said downwardly facing surface (18) that extends below said uppermost surface of the upper barrel edge (28), the improvement comprising:

- a) an exterior rib (40), said rib (40) defining part of said barrel edge and having both an upper surface and a lower surface projecting radially outwardly beyond an outward extent of said first and second portions with said lower surface of said rib disposed along said downwardly facing surface (18) and defining a continuing part of said downwardly facing surface (18), said rib (40) terminating in a free end surface connecting said upper and lower surfaces.

Please add the following new claims:

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20. (New) The blow-molded lidded barrel (10) according to claim 19, wherein the lid (12) is provided with a downwardly extending ring flange (54) which, in said closed position of the lid (12), is radially inward of and extends below a level of, the entire first portion (27), the entire second portion (29) and the entire rib (40).

21. (New) The blow-molded lidded barrel (10) according to claim 4, wherein the lid (12) is provided with a downwardly extending ring flange (54) which, in said closed position of the lid (12), is radially inward of and extends below a level of, the entire first portion (27), the entire second portion (29) and the entire rib (40).

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22. (New) The open top plastic drum according to claim 5, wherein the cover is provided with a downwardly extending ring flange which, in a closed position of the cover over the chime portion, is radially inward of and extends below a level of, the entire first chime wall, the entire second chime wall and the entire exterior circumferential rib.

23. (New) The open top plastic drum according to claim 10, wherein the cover is provided with a downwardly extending ring flange which, in a closed position of the cover over the chime portion, is radially inward of and extends below a level of, the entire first chime wall, the entire second chime wall and the entire exterior circumferential rib.
